GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:849
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2009
EXPORT OF PROCESSED FOOD
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Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food and Agriculture Organisation of United Nations has submitted a report on 'Agro-Industrial Parks in India';

(b) if so, the salient features of the report;

(c) whether India is largely dependent on conventional markets in West Asia, Western Europe or North America; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to expand its processed food exports to other parts of the world?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (I/C) (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI)

(a) to (c) :No Sir. However, there is Agricultural and Food Engineering Working Document authored by Shri K. Lakshminarayana Rao, as available on website http://www.fao.org/Ag/ags/publications/docs/AGST_ Working Documents/J7714 e.pdf on the subject. It may be mentioned that the above mentioned document is not the part of the published report of FAO (UN) and designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The paper mentions that in spite of an abundant and varied production base and the substantial international demand that exists for many fresh and processed foods, the export performance is marginal. The issues are many but some prominent one are that farming communities are sometimes characterized by small numbers of producers dispersed over large areas. Moreover, the goods and materials are required to be transported over long distances to reach markets. Traditionally, a few processing industries will already be located in producing areas including rice mills, sugar mills and oil mills. The paper also mentions over-dependence on a limited number of conventional markets in West Asia, Western Europe or North America catering mainly to ethnic populations; making these exports vulnerable to fluctuations in international trade.

(d): The Vision Document adopted by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, inter alia, aims at increasing India's share in world food trade from 1.5% to 3% by the year 2015. In this regard, Ministry of Food Processing Industries has taken strategic initiatives in Food Processing Infrastructure which aims at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of cold chain infrastructure/ value addition infrastructure, modernisation of abattoirs leading to overall development of food processing industries and reduction in wastages. To further strengthen the Food Processing Infrastructure, Government has approved a scheme for Mega Food Parks, which envisages a well-defined agri/horticultural-processing zone containing state of the art processing facilities with support infrastructure and well established supply chain. The scheme aims to provide a mechanism to bring together farmers, processors and retailers and link agricultural production to the market so as to ensure maximization of value addition, minimization of wastages and improving farmers' income. The primary objective of the scheme is to facilitate establishment of an integrated value chain, with processing at the core and supported by requisite forward and backward linkages.

Other strategic initiatives during 11th Plan include scheme for Integrated Cold Chain and Preservation Infrastructure including Controlled Atmosphere/Modified Atmosphere Stores, Value Added Centres, Packaging Centres and Irradiation facilities. Benefits of the Scheme will also be available to integrated projects of value addition / processing / preservation of horticulture, dairy, marine, and meat sector.